

REMARKS

In response to the reopening of prosecution and the new grounds of rejection, applicants elect to file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111.

The objection to claim 17, is deemed moot in view of its cancellation.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claim 16, is respectfully requested.

Claim 16, stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph allegedly because the limitation “the position milling” in line 3. However, applicants have noted that the term “position” had previously been cancelled and by the foregoing amendment the term “the milling” has been changed to read “the machining”. There is clearly antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim, as suggested in the Office Action.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the previous rejection of claims 2-7 and 9-27 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Giertz et al (EP 1,153,736) in view of Tyachsen (U.S. Publication 2001/0047702) is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1, has been rewritten so as to not utilize Jepson format in order to more particularly point out distinctly claim the subject matter that applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants’ claimed invention provides a process not only for making a thermosetting laminate with a decorative surface with a matching surface structure (See page 2, second full paragraph) but also for providing control of the quality achieved (See page 3, first full paragraph) of the laminating process including evaluation of the alignment between the décor and the surface structure imparted by the press plates or press foils.

No such process is taught by, or even hinted in, the proposed combination of Giertz in view of Tyachsen.

While the Examiner makes the glib statement (in the paragraph bridging pages 8-9 of the Office Action that “Giertz discloses the use of cameras and the use of structural and color

position indicators ([0009], [0010]). This therefore implies that Giertz recognizes the use of cameras that can recognize both surface structure and color. The combination of both types of these cameras would have flowed logically from the teaching of Giertz as one would expect that since both color and structural recognition cameras could be used it would have expected successfully to utilize both at the same time to insure accurate matching of the color and structural markings. It would have been obvious to combine two equivalents (optical recognition systems for aligning the board) for the same purpose (“to” two-sic provide optical recognition for the alignment of the boards”).

Giertz contains no such teachings

Giertz only mentions the use of “ccd cameras” at column 3, line 52. Giertz nowhere teaches that there are two different camera arrays, nor a first and second camera array as in the claimed invention wherein the first camera array is used for aligning of a press plate or press foil which the printed décor so as to provide a surface structure in register with the printed décor and second array of cameras in which the second array of cameras combines at least two different types of cameras, i.e., a color camera and a reflection camera, for two different purposes. The purpose of the color camera is to sense the décor on the laminated board and the purpose of the reflection camera is to sense the surface structure on the laminated board with both sensings being compared in a control computer for the accuracy of alignment of the surface structure with the printed décor in the laminated board. There is no such comparison and no such control computer taught in Giertz in view of Tychsen. No such steps as claimed are found in Giertz, nor even Giertz in combination with Tychsen.

The mere presence of cameras does that mean that the cameras are used to produce the same results as in the claimed process, or even that the cameras are of the type used for the same manipulative steps as in the claimed processes.

While the Examiner surmises (without any guidance, teaching or suggestion in the prior art) a camera should be used to do exactly what applicants have done in the claimed

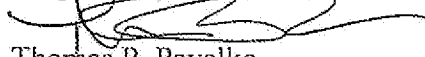
process, such a statement appears to be based solely on hindsight reconstruction of the invention. The Examiner has not pointed to any portion of the proposed combination of Giertz and Tychsen which suggest quality control as can be achieved by applicants' process. The Examiner points to no teaching or suggestion in the proposed combination of Giertz and Tychsen that would use two separate camera arrays, wherein the second camera array has two different types of cameras i.e. a color and reflection camera. While cameras can be used for many things i.e., from taking family snapshots, or aligning press foils, as in Giertz, there is no teaching to do what applicants have done in previous claim 18 which is now been combined with independent claim 20.

As all the dependent claims incorporate by statute (35 U.S.C. 112, fourth paragraph) the limitation of the claims from which they depend, all the claims also require the same two arrays of cameras, the second cameras array being comprised of at least two cameras one being a color and the other being a reflection camera, and a control computer for comprising, i.e. used for different purpose than in the proposed combination of the prior art, i.e., for preparing in a controlled computer the evaluation of alignment between the printed décor and the surface structure, steps and results not shown in the proposed combination of references. For all the forgoing reasons, withdrawal of the rejection and passage of the application to issue are therefore respectfully requested.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 14-1437, under Order No. 8688.045.US0000.

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Respectfully submitted,



Thomas P. Pavelko
Registration No. 31,689
NOVAK DRUCE & QUIGG LLP
300 New Jersey Ave
Fifth Floor
Washington, DC 20001
Telephone: (202) 659-0100
Facsimile: (202) 659-0105